



Docket: 2861
(203-3492)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Keith L. Milliman et al

Serial No: 10/528,975

Filed: 03/23/2005

Examiner: Brian D. Nash

Group Art Unit: 3721

For: **SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE**

Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R §1.56, the information listed in the attached PTO-1449 form is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the European Search Report (3 pages), completion date February 13, 2007 for the corresponding EP Application (EP 03770655), is submitted herewith. Copies of the cited U.S. patents (US-5758814A and US-4917114A) are not provided pursuant to the waiver of this requirement under 37 C.F.R §1.98 for national applications filed after June 30, 2003. A copy of the cited foreign reference (WO 02/080781A2) is submitted herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the reference(s) cited with Form PTO-1449 herewith be considered during Examination of the above-identified application and made of record therein. This submission is believed to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

The citation of the listed item(s) is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of prior art or that it constitutes prior art. The item(s) listed is/are submitted in good faith, but is/are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner, it will assist the Examiner in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

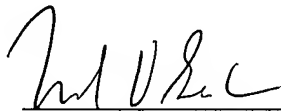
The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- () This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application.
- ☐ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(i).
- ☐ Enclosed is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d)
- ☐ Please charge the petition fee of \$130.00 required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☐ As set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), to the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before either the mailing of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or the mailing of a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, and is accompanied by the \$240.00 fee as provided for in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☒ As set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (e) (1): That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ Please charge the \$240.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefore **TWO COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.**

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Dated: 5/7/07



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/528.975
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Filing Date	03/23/2005
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First Named Inventor	Keith L. Milliman et al
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Art Unit	3721
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Examiner Name	Brian D. Nash
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Attorney Docket Number	2861 (203-3492)
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Sheet	1	of	2
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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